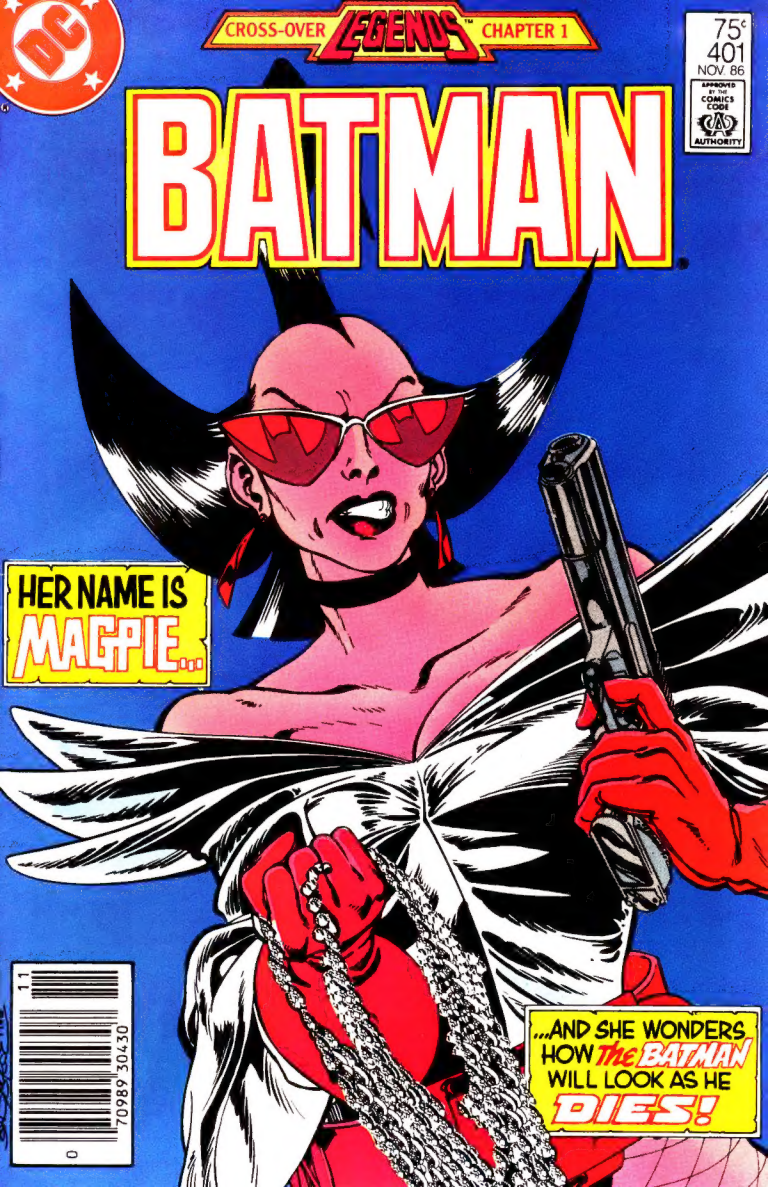
CROSS-OVER LEGENDS™ CHAPTER 1
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401
NOV 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
HER NAME IS MAGPIE...
...AND SHE WONDERS HOW THE BATMAN WILL LOOK AS HE DIES!
0 70989 30430 11

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SONDRA, I WISH YOU'D HURRY. THE MARKMANS ARE ALREADY HERE, OF COURSE. HEAVEN FORBID THAT ONE OF A WOMAN MISS EVEN A MINUTE OF A PARTY WHERE SHE MIGHT BE MENTIONED...
... AND SHE'LL PROBABLY CLAIM TO HAVE HEARD THE ANDREASON WOMAN'S LAST WORDS, AND WANT TO COO AND CRY OVER THE MURDER, IF SHE MENTIONS SEANCES IN MY HOUSE...
SNIK!
I-I GET SO TIRED OF THEM ALL! PATRICIA AND HER "FEELINGS", THAT WAYNE BOOR WITH HIS CONSTANT PURSUIT OF WOMEN-- I SWEAR, IF HE MAKES ADVANCES TOWARD YOU AGAIN, I'LL--
ARE YOU READY YET, DEAR?

A BIRD IN THE HAND...

BARBARA J. RANDALL. writer
TREVOR VON EEDEN. artist
. JOHN COSTANZA. letterer
ADRIENNE ROY. colorist
DENNIS O'NEIL editor

BATMAN 401 (USPS 045-340). Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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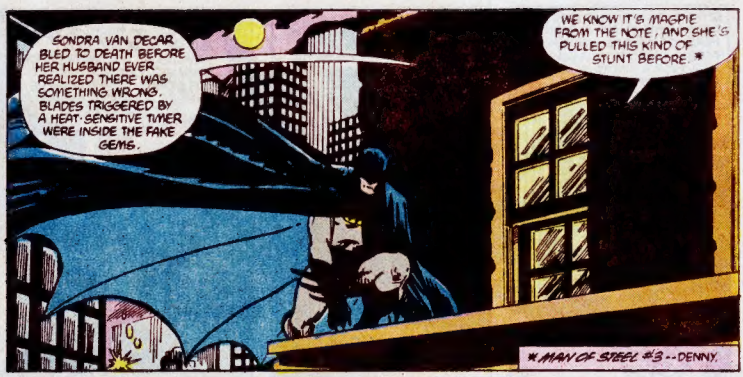
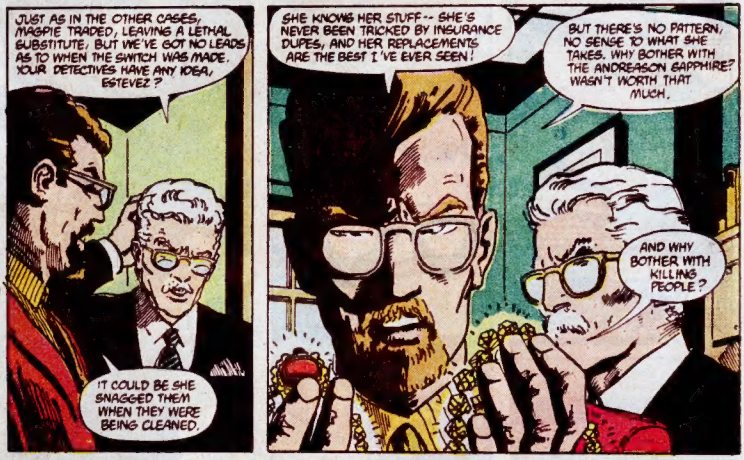
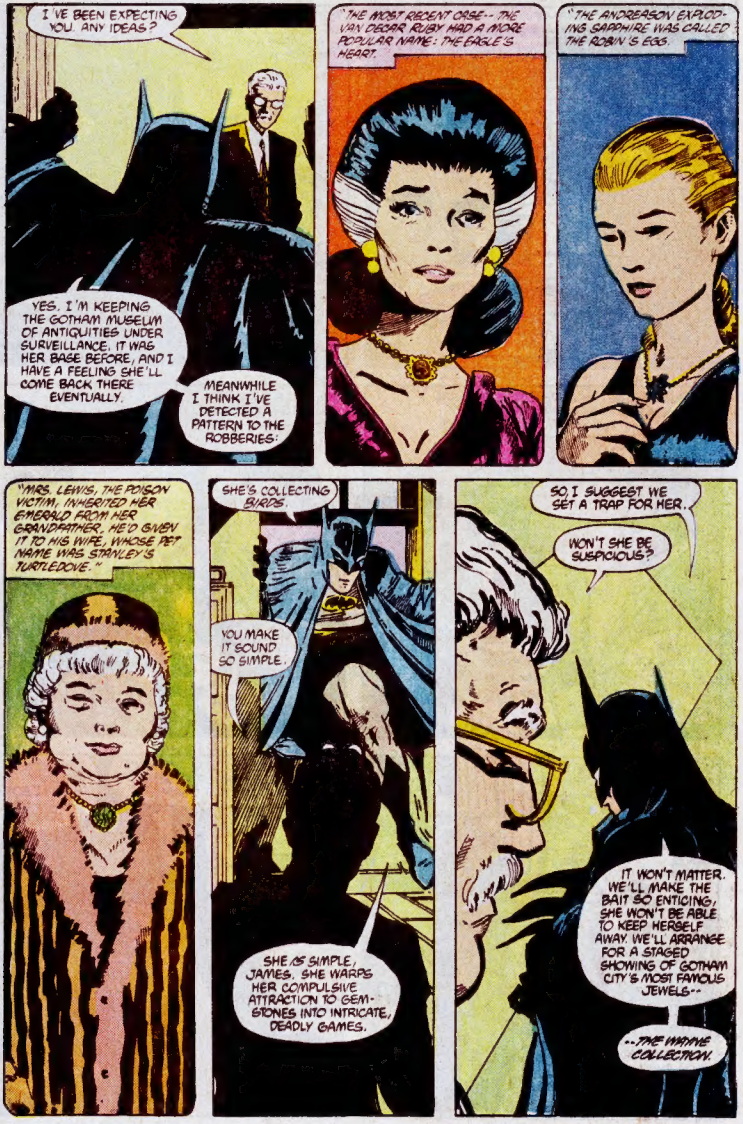

SONDRA VAN DECAR BLED TO DEATH BEFORE HER HUSBAND EVER REALIZED THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG. BLADES TRIGGERED BY A HEAT-SENSITIVE TIMER WERE INSIDE THE FAKE GEMS.
WE KNOW IT'S MAGPIE FROM THE NOTE, AND SHE'S PULLED THIS KIND OF STUNT BEFORE.*
* MAN OF STEEL #3 -- DENNY.


JUST AS IN THE OTHER CASES, MAGPIE TRADED, LEAVING A LETHAL SUBSTITUTE, BUT WE'VE GOT NO LEADS AS TO WHEN THE SWITCH WAS MADE. YOUR DETECTIVES HAVE ANY IDEA, ESTEVEZ?
IT COULD BE SHE SNAGGED THEM WHEN THEY WERE BEING CLEANED.
SHE KNOWS HER STUFF -- SHE'S NEVER BEEN TRICKED BY INSURANCE DUPES, AND HER REPLACEMENTS ARE THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN!
BUT THERE'S NO PATTERN, NO SENSE TO WHAT SHE TAKES. WHY BOTHER WITH THE ANDREASON SAPPHIRE? WASN'T WORTH THAT MUCH.
AND WHY BOTHER WITH KILLING PEOPLE?

BECAUSE THE WOMAN IS MAD, DAVID. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS RELEASED!
LOOK AT THIS! STATEMENTS FROM BATMAN AND SUPERMAN, PSYCHIATRIST'S REPORT, WITNESSES' STATEMENTS, ARRESTING OFFICER'S REPORT -- THE WOMAN HAS KILLED AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE, AND SHE'S FREE ON BAIL!
HATE TO BE HER BONDSMAN. WELL, COMMISH, LET YA KNOW WHAT I COME UP WITH, BUT I THINK WE'RE AT A DEAD END.
WELL?


I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. ANY IDEAS?
YES. I'M KEEPING THE GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES UNDER SURVEILLANCE. IT WAS HER BASE BEFORE, AND I HAVE A FEELING SHE'LL COME BACK THERE EVENTUALLY.
MEANWHILE I THINK I'VE DETECTED A PATTERN TO THE ROBBERIES:
"THE MOST RECENT ONE-- THE VAN DEDAR RUBY HAD A MORE POPULAR NAME: THE EAGLE'S HEART.
"THE ANDREASON EXPLODING SAPPHIRE WAS CALLED THE ROBIN'S EGG.
"MRS. LEWIS, THE POISON VICTIM, INHERITED HER EMERALD FROM HER GRANDFATHER. HE'D GIVEN IT TO HIS WIFE, WHOSE PET NAME WAS STANLEY'S TURTLEDOVE."
SHE'S COLLECTING BIRDS.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO SIMPLE.
SHE IS SIMPLE, JAMES. SHE WARPS HER COMPULSIVE ATTRACTION TO GEMSTONES INTO INTRICATE, DEADLY GAMES.
SO, I SUGGEST WE SET A TRAP FOR HER.
WON'T SHE BE SUSPICIOUS?
IT WON'T MATTER. WE'LL MAKE THE BAIT SO ENTICING, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP HERSELF AWAY. WE'LL ARRANGE FOR A STAGED SHOWING OF GOTHAM CITY'S MOST FAMOUS JEWELS--
--THE WAYNE COLLECTION.

"WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'LL COOPERATE?"
"HE OWES ME."
YOU'RE SURE THEIR CASES ARE SECURE?
NOT TOO MUCH CAVIAR ON THOSE. I'D LIKE TO STAY RICH.
WAYNE?
BRUCE WAYNE, MEET DETECTIVE ROBERTA VALLE. SHE'LL BE YOUR "DATE" FOR THE PARTY.
MY DEAR, YOU'LL LOOK LOVELY WEARING THE "FALCON'S EYE".
MS. VALLE IS A VERY COMPETENT DETECTIVE!
NICE TO MEET YOU, MR. WAYNE.
BRUCE, PLEASE.
SPINELESS BORE.
SHE'LL DO.
THE WAITERS, SECURITY PEOPLE AND ABOUT HALF THE GUESTS ARE OURS.
IF YOU SEE THIS LADY JEWEL THIEF, YOU WILL LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY, I HOPE.
STILL, COMMISSIONER, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN EASIER TO SEND BATMAN AFTER THIS "MAGPIE"?
THE GOTHAM P.D. CAN HANDLE SOME THINGS ON ITS OWN.
BESIDES, IT'S DAYTIME.
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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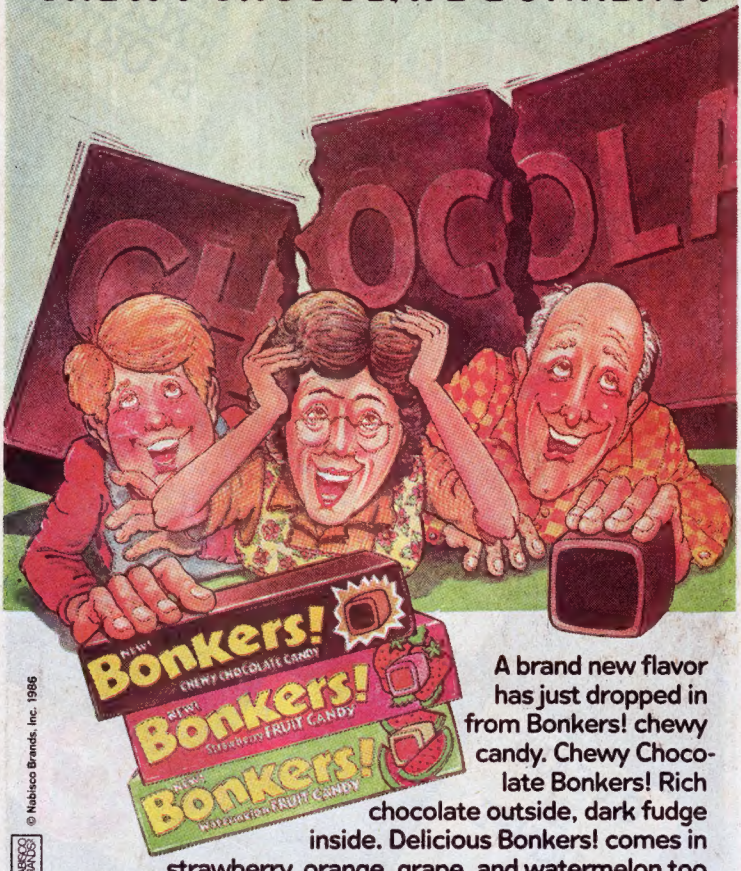

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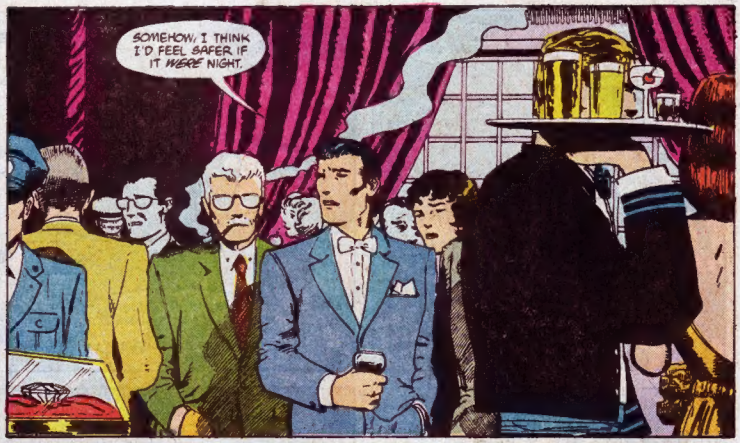
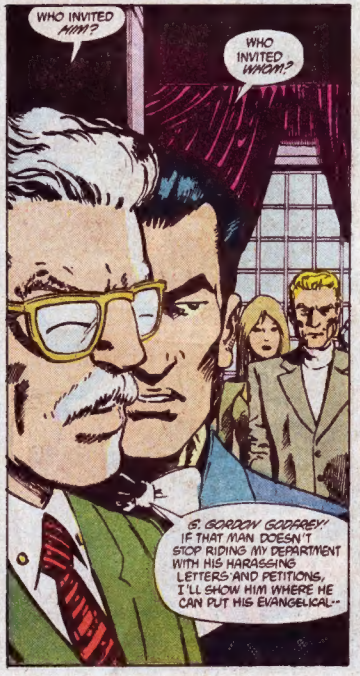
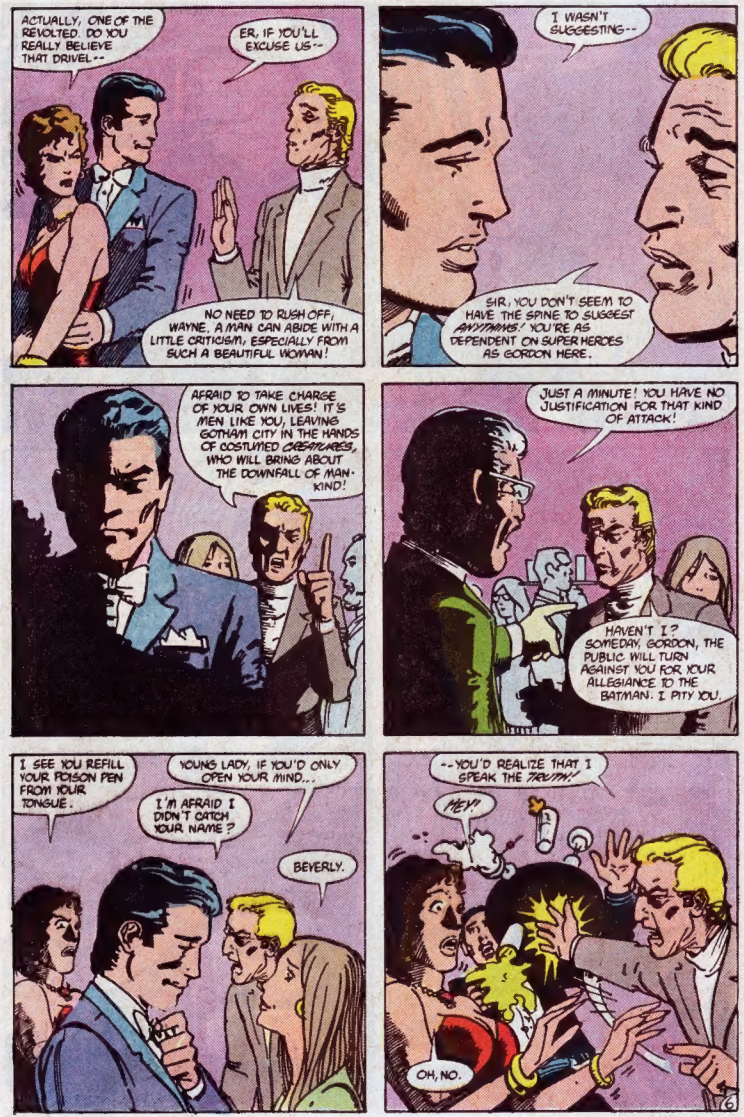
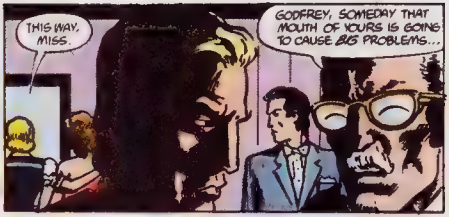

SOMEHOW, I THINK I'D FEEL SAFER IF IT *WERE* NIGHT.

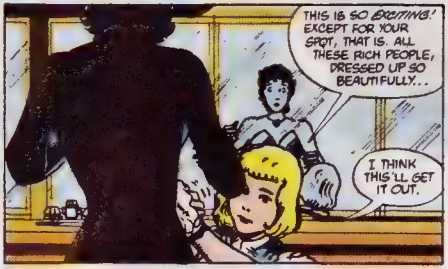

WHO INVITED *HIM*?
WHO INVITED *WHOM*?
G. GORDON GODFREY! IF THAT MAN DOESN'T STOP RIDING MY DEPARTMENT WITH HIS HARASSING LETTERS AND PETITIONS, I'LL SHOW HIM WHERE HE CAN PUT HIS EVANGELICAL--

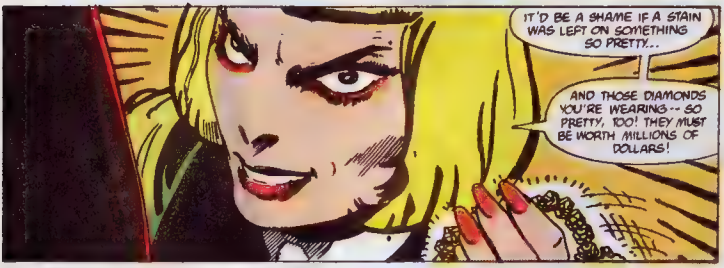
WELL, IF IT ISN'T GOTHAM CITY'S CHAMPION OF VIGILANTISM! HELLO, COMMISSIONER GORDON!
I HEARD YOUR JULY 4TH SPEECH, MR. GODFREY. VERY... IMPRESSIVE.
AH! ONE OF THE ENLIGHTENED!


ACTUALLY, ONE OF THE REVOLTED. DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT DRIVEL--
ER, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US--
NO NEED TO RUSH OFF, WAYNE. A MAN CAN ABIDE WITH A LITTLE CRITICISM, ESPECIALLY FROM SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
I WASN'T SUGGESTING--
SIR, YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THE SPINE TO SUGGEST ANYTHING! YOU'RE AS DEPENDENT ON SUPER HEROES AS GORDON HERE.
AFRAID TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR OWN LIVES! IT'S MEN LIKE YOU, LEAVING GOTHAM CITY IN THE HANDS OF COSTUMED CRUSADERS, WHO WILL BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF MANKIND!
JUST A MINUTE! YOU HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THAT KIND OF ATTACK!
HAVEN'T I? SOMEDAY, GORDON, THE PUBLIC WILL TURN AGAINST YOU FOR YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE BATMAN. I PITY YOU.
I SEE YOU REFILL YOUR POISON PEN FROM YOUR TONGUE.
YOUNG LADY, IF YOU'D ONLY OPEN YOUR MIND...
I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME?
BEVERLY.
--YOU'D REALIZE THAT I SPEAK THE TRUTH!
MEY!
OH, NO.
6

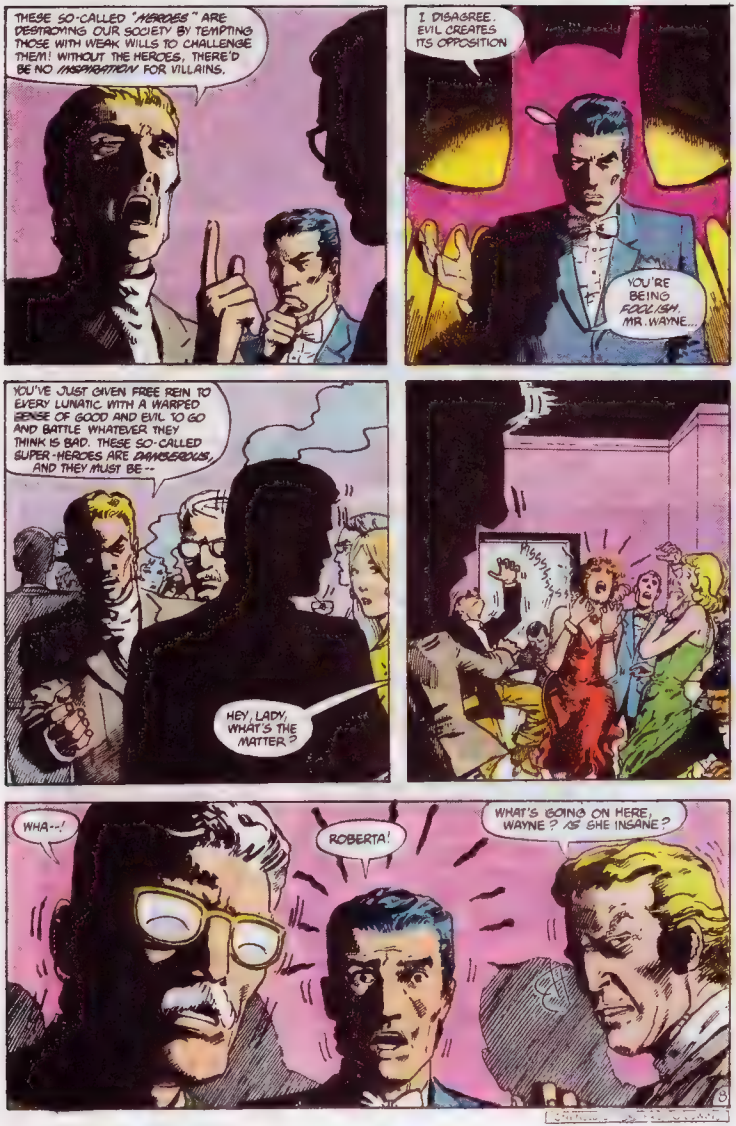
WAITRESS! TAKE THIS WOMAN TO THE LOUNGE AND HELP HER CLEAN UP, PLEASE!
I'M SO SORRY!
CLUMSY OF ME.


THIS WAY, MISS.
GODFREY, SOMEDAY THAT MOUTH OF YOURS IS GOING TO CAUSE BIG PROBLEMS...


THIS IS SO EXCITING! EXCEPT FOR YOUR SPOT, THAT IS. ALL THESE RICH PEOPLE, DRESSED UP SO BEAUTIFULLY...
I THINK THIS'LL GET IT OUT.


IT'D BE A SHAME IF A STAIN WAS LEFT ON SOMETHING SO PRETTY...
AND THOSE DIAMONDS YOU'RE WEARING -- SO PRETTY, TOO! THEY MUST BE WORTH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!

THEY'RE SUCH PRETTY SPOOKY THINGS!


THESE SO-CALLED "HEROES" ARE DESTROYING OUR SOCIETY BY TEMPTING THOSE WITH WEAK WILLS TO CHALLENGE THEM! WITHOUT THE HEROES, THERE'D BE NO INSPIRATION FOR VILLAINS.
I DISAGREE. EVIL CREATES ITS OPPOSITION
YOU'RE BEING FOOLISH, MR. WAYNE...
YOU'VE JUST GIVEN FREE REIN TO EVERY LUNATIC WITH A WARPED SENSE OF GOOD AND EVIL TO GO AND BATTLE WHATEVER THEY THINK IS BAD. THESE SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES ARE DANGEROUS, AND THEY MUST BE--
HEY, LADY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHA--!
ROBERTA!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, WAYNE? IS SHE INSANE?

HEY KIDS!
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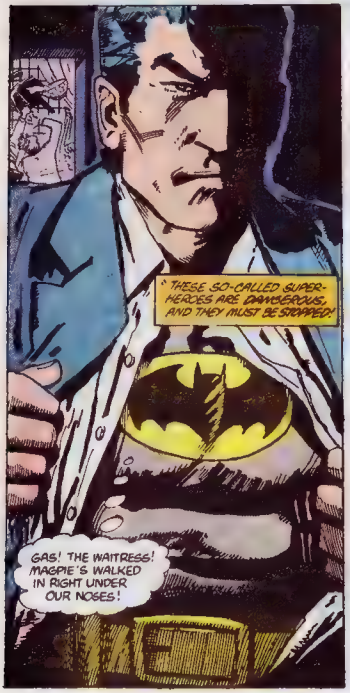
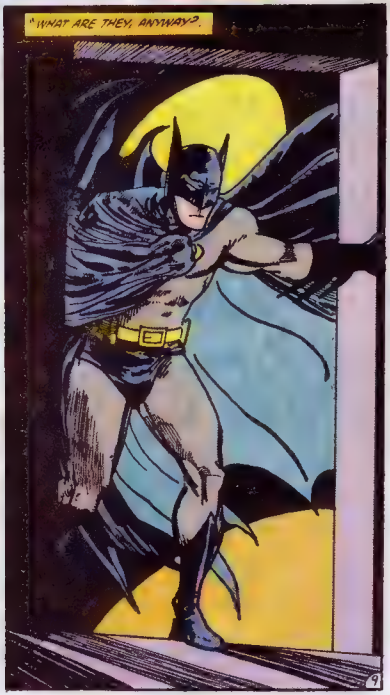
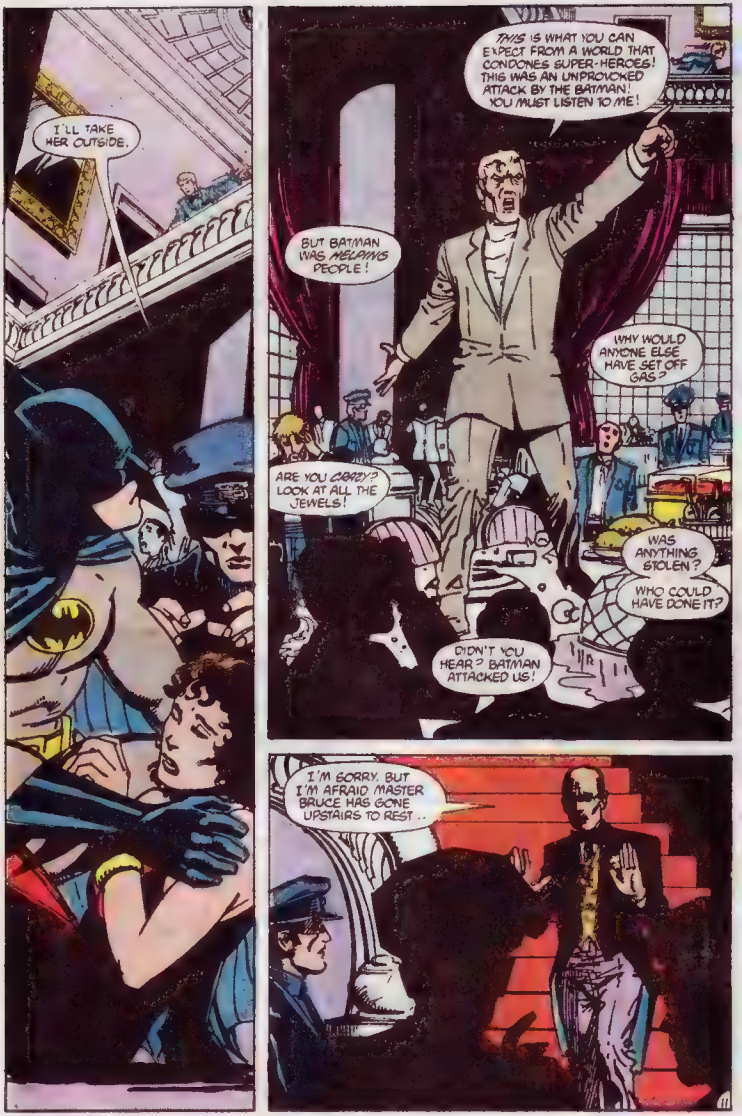
MEN! GET EVERYONE OUTSIDE!
GOOD LORD!


"THESE SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES ARE DANGEROUS, AND THEY MUST BE STOPPED!
GAS! THE WAITRESS! MAGPIE'S WALKED IN RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!


"WHAT ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

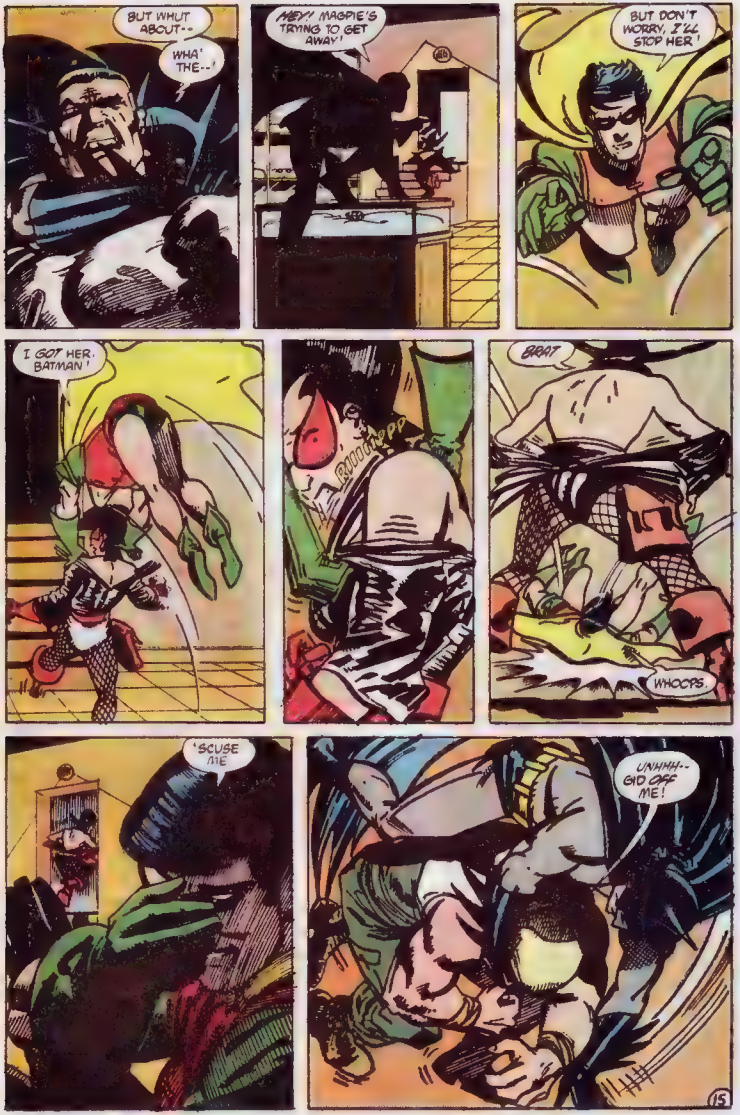
"THEY'RE NOT HERE TO HELP...
"THEY'RE NOT HERE TO PROTECT...
"THEY ONLY WANT THE SATISFACTION OF ADORATION...
"THE RUSH THEY GET FROM BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION...
"NOT ANY HONEST HUMAN FEELINGS."
SHE . PUT THIS ON ME !-I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN.. COULD HAVE HURT PEOPLE...

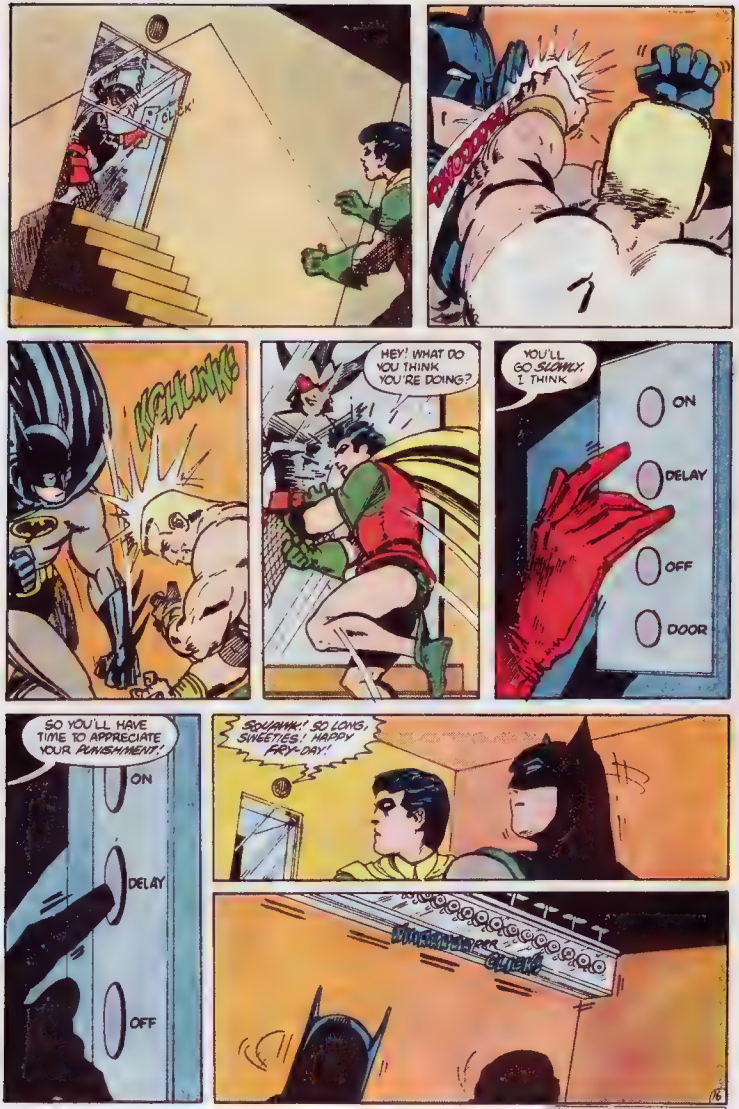

I'LL TAKE HER OUTSIDE.
THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM A WORLD THAT CONDONES SUPER-HEROES! THIS WAS AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY THE BATMAN! YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
BUT BATMAN WAS HELPING PEOPLE!
WHY WOULD ANYONE ELSE HAVE SET OFF GAS?
ARE YOU CRAZY? LOOK AT ALL THE JEWELS!
WAS ANYTHING STOLEN?
WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? BATMAN ATTACKED US!
I'M SORRY. BUT I'M AFRAID MASTER BRUCE HAS GONE UPSTAIRS TO REST..

HOWEVER, IN THE BATCAVE...
YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL HEAD BACK TO THE MUSEUM? I THOUGHT THAT WAS A DEAD END.
MAGPIE'S JUST LIKE HER NAMESAKE--
--SHE'S TRADED FOR SOMETHING SHINY, AND NOW SHE'LL WANT TO HIDE IT IN HER NEST.
SNORT.X..
I DON'T KNOW... THIS PLACE LOOKS PRETTY DEAD TO ME!
LOOK AGAIN.
GROUSE CATERING
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT TRUCK'S FROM THE COMPANY THAT CATERED OUR PARTY!
IF THE CATERER WAS IN ON IT, THAT'S PROBABLY HOW THEY GOT AT THOSE OTHER JEWELS!
AND THE OTHER VICTIMS. KEEP QUIET, AND THEY'LL PROBABLY GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY.
CREEEAK
LIKE SO.
I HATE IT WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT.
I have the pretty Falcon's Eye, I have the pretty birdie...

GEORGE!
YOU'RE TOUCHING THE GLASS! SMUDGING IT!
DO IT AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE PUNISHED!
SORRY, MAGPIE!
HEY, BOSS-- WHUZZAT?
YOU'RE PATHETIC.
EEK! MEN-- EARN YOUR PAY!
GET THEM!
AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ME!
SMUDGE
UHHF, THAT HURT!
THWACK!

STOP FIRING, JOE! I'VE GOT HIM!
THE GUY WITH THE MACHINE GUN MUST HAVE A HEAD LIKE A FIREPLUG... BUT I'LL DEAL WITH HIM LATER.
BLAM
HIS PAL HERE HAS FIRST PRIORITY!
REALLY, KID, YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE HERE -- I'M JUST THE DRIVER!
WELL, I M THE PILE DRIVER! THAT'S ONE UP ON YOU GUY!
DON'T WORRY, GEORGE! I'LL COVER YUH..
NO, DON'T FIRE, YOU FOOL! YOU MIGHT HIT MY JEWELS!
MY PRETTY THINGS!
CRASH!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, STUPID! SLICE THAT PUNK TO RIBBONS! ARGF!


BUT WHUT ABOUT--
WHA' THE--!
HEY! MAGPIE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!
BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL STOP HER!
I GOT HER, BATMAN!
BRAT
WHOOPS
'SCUSE ME
UNHHH-- GID OFF ME!


'CLICK'
KAHUNK
HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU'LL GO SLOWLY, I THINK
ON
DELAY
OFF
DOOR
SO YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO APPRECIATE YOUR PUNISHMENT!
ON
DELAY
OFF
SCHWINK! SO LONG, SINISTER! HAPPY FRY-DAY!
CLUNK

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A multi-layered murder mystery! Someone is killing the descendants of the JLA!

Levitz / Giffen / Kesel

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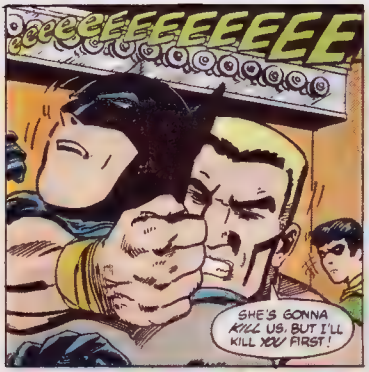
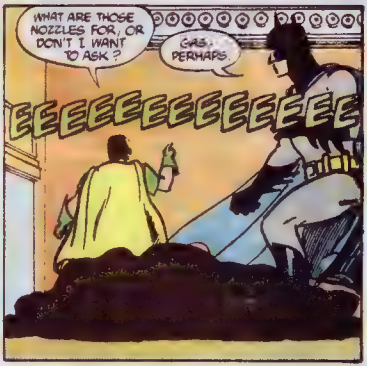
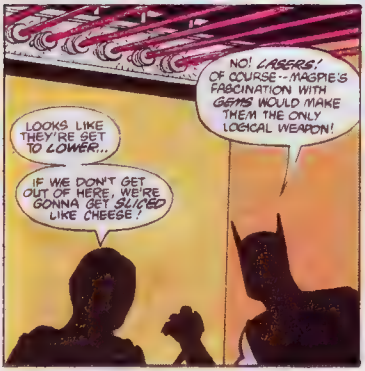

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SHE'S GONNA KILL US, BUT I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!

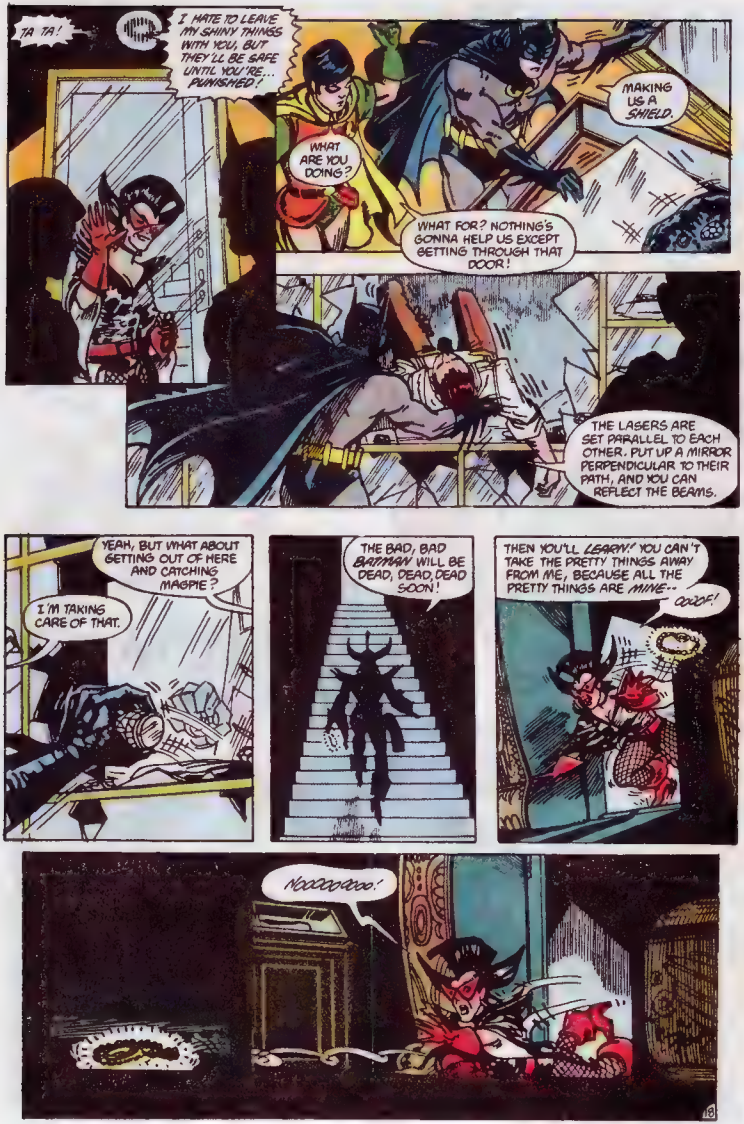
YOU...GONNA... DIE...
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SOMEDAY, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOMEBODY A LOT BETTER THAN YOU TO DO THE JOB.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE

KRUNCH!
EEEEEEEEEE
THAT'LL TEACH ME NOT TO LEAVE A JOB UNFINISHED. THE NEXT ONE MIGHT NOT BE SO STUPID.


WHAT ARE THOSE NOZZLES FOR, OR DON'T I WANT TO ASK?
GAS. PERHAPS.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE


NO! LASERS! OF COURSE--MAGPIE'S FASCINATION WITH GEMS WOULD MAKE THEM THE ONLY LOGICAL WEAPON!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SET TO LOWER...
IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE, WE'RE GONNA GET SLICED LIKE CHEESE!

NO GOOD. THE GLASS, OR PLASTIC, IS TOO THICK. WE'LL NEED ANOTHER WAY OUT. THE CONTROLS ARE JUST OUTSIDE THIS DOOR, AND SO'S SHE!
KHUMP!


TA TA!
I HATE TO LEAVE MY SHINY THINGS WITH YOU, BUT THEY'LL BE SAFE UNTIL YOU'RE... PUNISHED!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING US A SHIELD.
WHAT FOR? NOTHING'S GONNA HELP US EXCEPT GETTING THROUGH THAT DOOR!
THE LASERS ARE SET PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER. PUT UP A MIRROR PERPENDICULAR TO THEIR PATH, AND YOU CAN REFLECT THE BEAMS.
YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT GETTING OUT OF HERE AND CATCHING MAGPIE?
I'M TAKING CARE OF THAT.
THE BAD, BAD BATMAN WILL BE DEAD, DEAD, DEAD SOON!
THEN YOU'LL LEARN! YOU CAN'T TAKE THE PRETTY THINGS AWAY FROM ME, BECAUSE ALL THE PRETTY THINGS ARE MINE--
OOOF!
NOOOOOOOO!

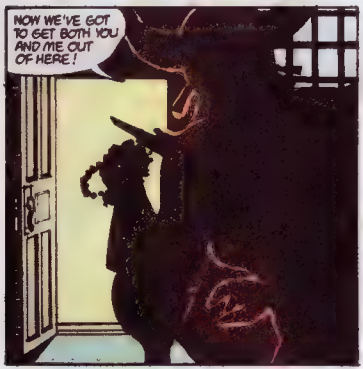
THIS WILL MAKE THINGS GO FASTER.
THE MIRROR?
NO. THE LASER.
SINCE A LASER IS COHERENT LIGHT, IT CAN BE DEFLECTED BY THE RIGHT KIND OF PRISM. BY LEAVING THE GEMS BEHIND, MAGPIE LEFT US THE KEY TO OUR ESCAPE.
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, BOSS.
UH? WHERE AM--?
OH, NO.
UHHHHH...
HE WOULD HAVE TO PICK NOW TO WAKE UP.
WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, KICK AT THE POINT WHERE THE CUTS CROSS.
RIGHT. THEN I HIT THE SWITCH AND DISARM THE TRAP!
NOW!
CRASH!!

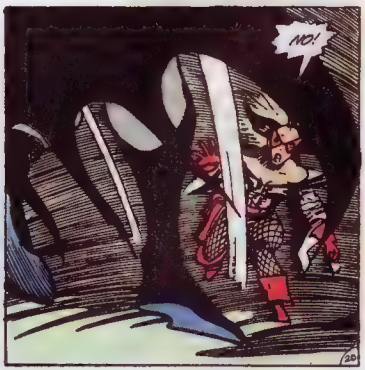
SOON:
RUBY LASER
DISPLAY
UMMM! GET OUT HERE!

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND!

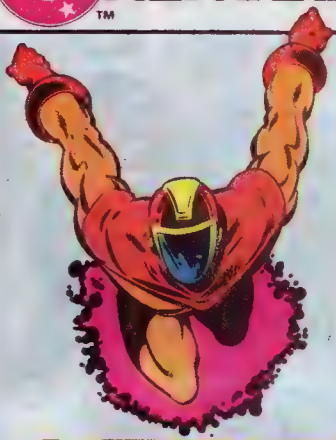
I CAN'T--
AHA!

BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL SPARKLY THING--YOU'RE MINE!


NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET BOTH YOU AND ME OUT OF HERE!

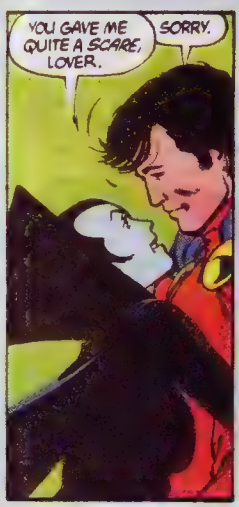

NO!

DC HEROES™ ROLE PLAYING GAME



Enter the world of the Legion of Super-Heroes.™ Contained in this reference book are in-depth, up-to-date articles on all 37 Legionnaires past and present. Other articles explain the Legionnaires' personal equipment, discuss their deadliest foes and staunchest allies, and give a concise history of the group from its beginnings to the latest issue on the stands today.

LEGION™ OF SUPER-HEROES SOURCEBOOK 1



Co-written by Paul Levitz, it includes intimate details on the Legionnaires' lives that you can't find anywhere else. Also included are comprehensive explanations and statistics for use with the DC HEROES ROLE PLAYING GAME. As part one of a two-part series on the Legion and its world, you'll find this handy reference work a fascinating step into the 30th Century.

Mayfair Games Inc.

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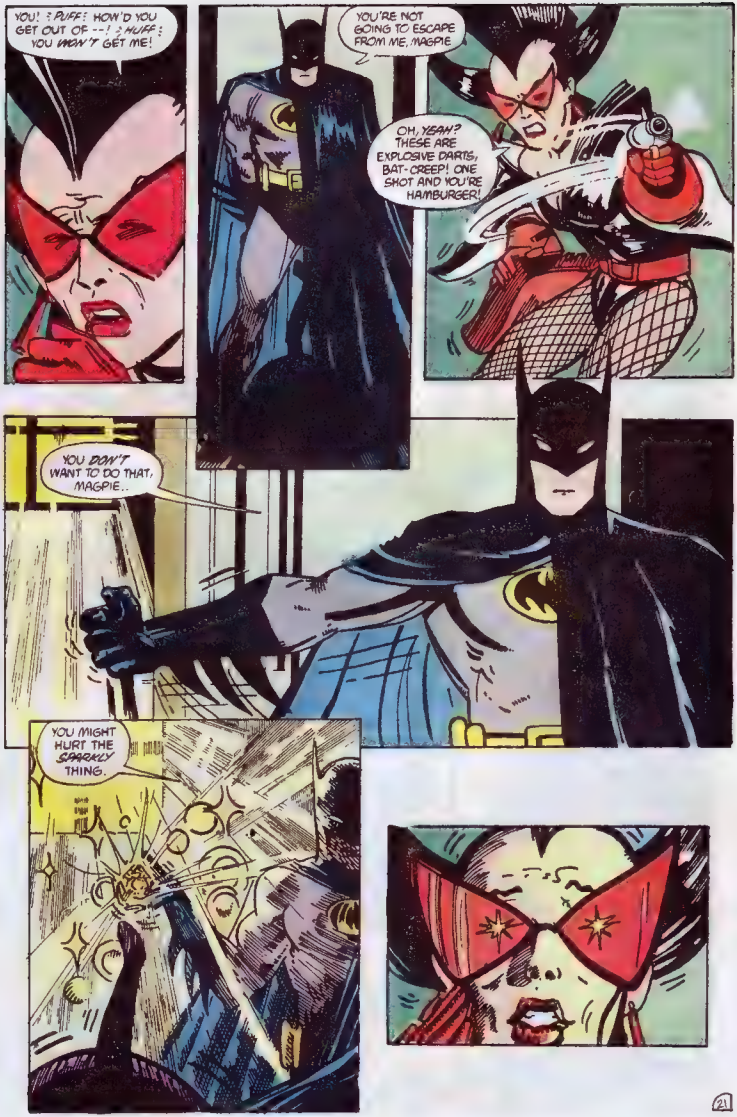
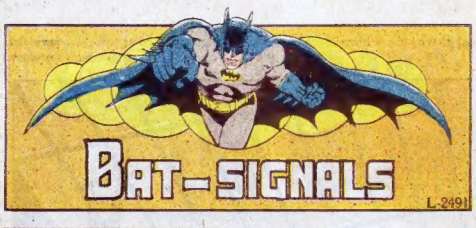

YOU! : PUFF : HOW'D YOU GET OUT OF --! : HUFF : YOU WON'T GET ME!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ESCAPE FROM ME, MAGPIE.
OH, YEAH? THESE ARE EXPLOSIVE DARTS, BAT-CREEP! ONE SHOT AND YOU'RE HAMBURGER!
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, MAGPIE..
YOU MIGHT HURT THE SQUEAKY THING.

YOU'VE KILLED TOO MANY PEOPLE, MARGERET. I HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO HURT YOU.
PUT THE GUN DOWN.
IF YOU THINK...
...THAT'S GOING TO STOP ME...
YOU CAN JUST..
WAHHHHHHHHH!
STOP IT!
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT! IT'S NOT FAIR!
ALL THE PRETTY THINGS ARE MINE..
"THESE SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES ARE DANGEROUS, AND THEY MUST BE STOPPED!"
MARGARET, IT MUST END. NOW.
"AND ARE THEY, ANYWAY?"
YOU ARE A HORRIBLE MAN!
I AM WHAT I HAVE TO BE.
LET'S GO
ENQ
22



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Welcome to the world of Legends, the Universe of DC Comics. During the course of the LEGENDS maxi-series, which starts here in BATMAN 401 and leads into DETECTIVE 568 and LEGENDS 1, we'll be putting our finest on display—giving such diverse characters as Captain Marvel, Cosmic Boy, Changeling and, of course, the Batman the chance to take center stage and show why they are the stuff such stories are made of. We hope you'll be with us for the entire event.

FROM THE DEN

I have been one acquainted with the night.

Robert Frost

I have often walked through Gotham City.

The night I went into every bar and coffee house in Chicago's Old Town searching for a girl friend...

The night I ended a marathon hitchhike in a San Francisco flop house...

The night I visited the widow of a friend who had been stabbed to death in a Manhattan slum...

And a thousand other occasions when youthful daring, circumstance or lack of good sense placed me on some shadowed street during the dark hours and I felt the sudden hollowness in the belly, the pulse-quickening dread of things unseen and enormously hostile—the cold moment when the pavement becomes a threshhold to the abyss that flickers just beyond the pale splash of the mercury lamps. It has happened in St. Louis, Boston, Wilmington, Washington, Philadelphia ... in any city large and old enough to harbor decay, corruption, poverty.

Men built cities to provide sustenance and security and to keep out the savageries of nature and, to their everlasting horror, discovered that they had created breeding grounds for monstrosities. It is as though the human spirit grew diseased in confinement and metamorphosed into a foulness; something corrupt and sly and utterly without pity. Nothing in the wilderness is as hideous as the brutalities which occur everywhere in the city, from the glittering luxury of penthouses to the dankness of ghetto cellars, because nothing in nature is wantonly, deliberately cruel. The creatures of the forest kill for food. The creatures of the city kill for gain, for revenge and, worst of all, for pleasure.

All cities are Gotham City, warrens of malice where the entreaties of the lost are an inconvenience, where shrieks of children are ignored, where innocents are slain on a whim. Yet we live here, in Gotham, and occasionally we prosper. We raise our young, we laugh, we celebrate, we brave the terrors and sometimes, at our best, we deny them with acts of kindness, decency, love.

It would be nice if we had heroes to help us. I have often walked through Gotham City and every time I wished someone strong, cunning and compassionate was walking with me.

That's what this magazine is about.

DENNY

That was the editor having his monthly say. Now it's the assistant editor's turn—an assistant editor who just happens to be this month's writer, also...

I'm fascinated with the way people think. One of the greatest things about writing (for me, anyway) is being able to stroll into an alien person's mind, look around and see what's there, then walk out with a few good ideas on situations in which to put said alien mind.

When I was in the process of putting together this issue's plot, John Byrne happened to send a copy of THE MAN OF STEEL #3 to Denny's office, with a message that this might be a good character to pit against Batman alone. I bounced around the office doing my patented impression of a cocker spaniel puppy until Denny gave me permission to use the character, a new villain called MAGPIE.

This lady has a wonderfully crazy mind. A single issue, and already she's offed more people than several villains do in their entire careers. I said, in a world filled with Jokers and Penguins, this lady has potential. This is great. This is cool. This is wonderful.

So here we've got this looney-tunes lady with a jewelry jones, and we're going to send her out against ol' pointy ears. This is going to be fun, I said, rubbing my hands together in glee. Let it not be said that I am ... normal.

Magpie's fun because she's got this absolute fixation and determination, and an incredible amount of raw brainpower that's been focused into this very narrow tunnel-visioned approach to the world. She's not dumb, she's not the gal sidekick, and she's not the perfect-model-scarred-for-life-and-out-for-revenge that had me howling letters of protest back when Dick the G was Editor of this book. (That's what got me into this business...)

What she is is a fairly cute lady who makes herself look almost as bizarre as the Joker, and then does terribly nasty things to punish people who have the audacity to take HER sparkly things. Nice and simple, but a rich vein of storylines lies under that funny-looking exterior. I'll be looking forward to what the next writer does with her, and I'm glad I got my chance.

Let's hear it for the Loonies! Rah!

—Barbara

NEXT ISSUE: Something very special. "The Man Who Thought He Was The Batman" was written by one of America's most versatile and interesting thriller writers. Readers of the "Dick Tracy" comic strip and "Ms. Tree"—a comic *book*—are already familiar with Max Allen Collins' mastery of this medium. They may not know that he's also a master of the mystery *novel*; he's written about a dozen of them and last year's *True Crime* won the coveted Shamus award. His Batman debut is, to say the least, auspicious.

His collaborator is Jim Starlin, another name familiar to comics lovers. Jim's credit list is long indeed. Highlights include *The Death of Captain Marvel*, "Dreadstar," "Warlock" and THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, among many other truly memorable projects.

Collins and Starlin together on "The Man Who Thought He Was The Batman" in Batman #402. It may be one you'll never forget.

"...down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid ... He is the hero; he is everything."
Raymond Chandler

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